

**Testimony in support of 6690 "An Act concerning Court Proceedings and the Protection of Animals"**

Karen Laski

279 Fern St.

Manchester, CT 06040

Animals are sentient beings and too often they are looked at as easy marks for taking out one's frustration and anger. This kind of behavior often translates to violence toward humans. Connecticut courts have traditionally dismissed or nolle people charged with animal cruelty offenses. Many of these cases were found to be acts of revenge against a family member, friend, neighbor or domestic partner. Cruelty should always be taken seriously by the courts.

This bill will ensure that animals have an advocate, someone who cares and knows about issues of cruelty. Since animals have no voice, this bill is crucial toward their well being and considers the feelings and safety of those who know and love the animal involved.

A court animal advocate could be the key to shedding light on other violence close to the animal involved such as child abuse or spousal abuse.

People should be held responsible for cruelty to animals in Connecticut. The majority are not held accountable. An animal advocate in court is crucial to this goal.

Please support this bill. Thank you.